

Calendar No. 436

89TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE }

REPORT
No. 451

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL WEEK

JULY 15 (legislative day, JULY 14), 1965.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. DIRKSEN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 66]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 66), to provide for the designation of the period from August 31 through September 6 in 1965, as "National American Legion Baseball Week," having considered the same, reports favorably thereon, without amendment, and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the joint resolution is to authorize and request the President of the United States to issue a proclamation designating the period from August 31 through September 6, 1965, as National American Legion Baseball Week.

STATEMENT

A nationwide organization of American Legion junior baseball was first proposed as a program of service to the youth of America at the annual department convention of the American Legion held in Milbank, S. Dak., in 1925. The 40th anniversary of American Legion baseball will be celebrated when the annual American Legion world series for 1965 is held at Aberdeen, S. Dak., during the period August 31 through September 6, 1965.

While others are talking about physical fitness and combatants for juvenile delinquency, the American Legion for 40 years has offered a program which provides outstanding opportunities to acquire physical fitness, to develop personal responsibility and good citizenship, to learn the value of teamwork and mutual cooperation, as well as to acquire individual proficiency and an opportunity to advance to

a professional career in the sport of baseball. More than 15 million youths of 18 years of age and under have participated in this program.

The 46th Annual National Convention of the American Legion convened in Dallas, Tex., on September 22 through September 24, 1964, adopted a resolution designating the period August 29 to September 6, 1965, as American Legion Baseball Week, and honoring the 40th anniversary of American Legion baseball.

The committee is of the opinion that because this program is a nationwide event, and because it has benefited young Americans over the past 40 years, it is indeed appropriate and fitting that National Junior Legion Baseball Week be a national event. Accordingly, the committee recommends favorable consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 66, without amendment.

Attached hereto and made a part hereof is Resolution No. 2 adopted by the American Legion National Convention in September 1964.

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN
LEGION, DALLAS, TEX., SEPTEMBER 22-24, 1964.

Resolution No. 2.

Committee: Americanism.

Subject: Designate August 29-September 6, 1965, as the American Legion Baseball Week honoring 40th anniversary of American Legion baseball.

Whereas, Sidney L. Smith Post No. 24, the American Legion, Aberdeen, S. Dak., will host the 1965 American Legion Baseball World Series; and

Whereas, it was at Milbank, S. Dak., in 1925 at the Annual Department Convention of the American Legion that a nationwide organization of the American Legion junior baseball was first proposed as a program of service to the youth of America; that over 15 million graduates of this program, youth 18 years of age and under, have received important lessons in good citizenship, responsibility, loyalty, sportsmanship, leadership, and team spirit, offering to many boys an opportunity to advance to the professional ranks and a career in the diamond sport; and

Whereas while this will be the first national finals tournament ever played in South Dakota, Aberdeen has a long and successful history of tournament baseball sponsorship. The Hub City staged its first national level tournament in 1946, hosting a three-team sectional, and regional tournaments in 1949, 1951, and 1953, as well as a State tournament in 1962.

Whereas, the American Legion on this 40th anniversary points with pride to the thousands of Legionnaires throughout America, who, year in and year out, devote much time, leadership, and hard work to raise funds to field Legion teams and to provide the supervision that has accomplished the character-building qualities so notable in this most worthwhile program; and

Whereas, the President of these United States has placed increasing emphasis on youth fitness because approximately one-third of our Nation's youth fail to pass military physical fitness and the American Legion baseball is an important phase of this youth fitness program: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the American Legion in national convention assembled in Dallas, Tex., September 22-24, 1964, does hereby request, That the week of August 29 through September 6, 1965, be designated as the American Legion Baseball Week; that the national commander of the American Legion be called upon to request the President of the United States and the Governor of each State designate the above week during 1965 as the American Legion Baseball Week and that the National Americanism Commission be instructed to arrange a similar week earlier in the season, beginning in 1966, to publicize American Legion baseball as the program begins annually; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution, duly certified, be forthwith mailed to each member of our South Dakota congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., and we do hereby urgently solicit their respective endorsement and assistance in our endeavor.



